



Iowa Department of Natural Resources Flood Plain Management Program

FPID# _____

Determining if a Flood Plain Permit is Required – Culverts and Roads

This form has been developed to help you determine if a flood plain permit will be required from the Iowa DNR for a project on or near a river or stream. You must also obtain approval from the Iowa DNR Sovereign Lands Program (515) 281-8967, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (309) 794-5371, and your local flood plain manager (if applicable) before beginning construction. You are legally responsible if you proceed with a project without obtaining all required permits.

When is a DNR Flood Plain Permit Required?

- *In rural areas, bridges, culverts, road embankments, and temporary stream crossings in or on the floodway of any river or stream draining more than 100 square miles. (NOTE: Channel modifications associated with bridge, culvert or roadway projects may need approval).*
- *In rural areas, road embankments located in the floodway or flood plains, but not crossing the channel of a river or stream draining more than 10 square miles, where such works occupy more than 3 percent of the cross-sectional area of the channel at bankfull stage or where such works obstruct more than 15 percent of the total cross-sectional area of the flood plain at any stage. In determining a 15 percent occupancy of the flood plain, the concept of equal and opposite conveyance as defined in 567—Chapter 70 shall apply.*
- *In urban areas, bridges, culverts, road embankments and temporary stream crossings in or on the floodway or flood plains of any river or stream draining more than 2 square miles.*

The following information must be completed to make the determination:

If your project is only a road that does not cross a river or stream - **STOP**. Refer to “Determining if a Flood Plain Permit is Required – Miscellaneous Structures, Obstructions, or Deposits” (can be found at <http://floodplain.iowadnr.gov/>).

Location (in Quarter-Section-Tier-Range format):	Qtr.	Sec.	T	N	R
County:	Stream(s):				
Name of Road, Street, or Recreational Trail:					
Located within a corporate limit?			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
Drainage Area:		square miles	How was the drainage area determined?		
Note: A drainage area determination can be made by calling the Iowa DNR at (866) 849-0321 . Alternately, the County Engineer or the local office of the Natural Resources Conservation Service may also be able to make this determination for you.					
Is a DNR Flood Plain permit needed (for your culvert project)?			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
If “Yes” please continue below and then proceed to Part A2. If “No” please continue below and then proceed to Part A1.					
Note: If it is unclear as to whether your project will require a Flood Plain Permit from this department, please call (866) 849-0321 for assistance with the determination. This determination will have a significant effect on the type and amount of information that you will need to include with your application.					
Is there any other construction in the flood plain associated with this project?			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
If Yes, please explain:					
If your project includes other construction activities within the flood plain, please review the other DNR forms to see if they apply. Should you need assistance, please call the DNR at (866) 849-0321.					

Submitting the information:

- **A1:** If you answered “No” to the question “Is a DNR Flood Plain permit needed?” AND you wish to have written confirmation from this Department that a DNR Flood Plain Permit is not required, you must submit copies of a completed and signed Joint Application Form (Form #36 - *Protecting Iowa Waters*) to the IDNR Flood Plain Management Program, to the IDNR Sovereign Lands Program, and to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, according to the instructions for the Joint Application Form (can be found at <http://floodplain.iowadnr.gov/>).

For the Flood Plain Management Program, the required submittals (in addition to the Joint Application Form) are this form and a project location map.

Please note that the IDNR Sovereign Lands Program and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers may require additional information to determine if their permits are required.

Your project may also need a permit from your local (city or county) permit authority. The local permit may require technical concurrence from the IDNR Flood Plain Management Program.

- **A2:** If you answered “Yes” to the question “Is a DNR Flood Plain permit needed?” you will be required to secure a flood plain permit from the IDNR Flood Plain Management Program prior to constructing the project. To apply for a flood plain permit, please reference form 542-1027 titled “Applying for a Flood Plain Permit –Culverts and Roads” (can be found at <http://floodplain.iowadnr.gov/>) and follow all directions contained within. All required information in the referenced document must be submitted along with the completed Joint Application Form at the time of application. **Applications submitted without this information will be considered incomplete.**